

Bonhomme, Penny

From: Kim Webster [webhoo2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 3:33 PM
To: PHC Testimony; Celeste Barnowski
Subject: APHP legislation

Hello,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Kimberly Webster. I am a Registered Dental Hygienist in Connecticut, I have been in the dental field for 30 plus years and I reside in Groton. I have been fortunate to have seen many wonderful changes in the dental field over my career. The change that I would most like to see in my profession is the introduction of a mid level dental provider, the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP). I would appreciate it if you would support the proposed legislation for establishing the ADHP in Connecticut. I see that there is a great need in our area to provide dental care, especially to those who struggle financially. The ADHP would expand the availability of quality preventative & restorative dental care in a cost effective manner. Many adults & children now find that the only available dental care is to far away for them to easily access, to expensive or offer very limited scheduling. Therefore there is a tendency to neglect needed dental care. Because poor dental health has been shown to negatively effect our overall heath, we are proposing a lot more that just a pretty smile. This legislation can make it possible for thousands of underserved patients who cannot obtain dental care, to obtain quality dental treatment. The ADHP is proposed as a midlevel provider similar to the APRN (Nurse Practitioner). The ADHP will first be a Registered Dental Hygienist who then achieves his/her masters degree and then will be adequately trained to provide quality midlevel dental care to patients. The medical field has embraced the APRN and found that they facilitate better access to quality patient care, I feel that the dental field needs to embrace the APHP in a similar fashion. Change always brings a measure of controversy and apprehension but I know that this legislation, as proposed, will benefit the people in the state of Connecticut. There are currently 11 other states that have similar legislation in place to adopt and fully embrace the ADHP. Please do all that you can to encourage the passing of this legislation so that Connecticut can start on the path of better dental health. Please do not let our state fall behind in the opportunity to provide better access

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to quality dental care.

**Thank you very much for your prompt attention to
this need & for your service,**

**Kimberly Webster RDH
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